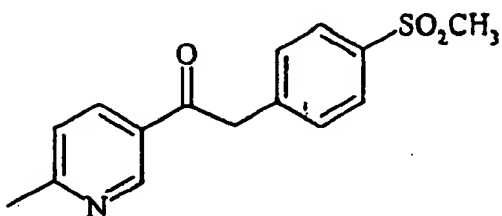


Abstract

A four-step process for preparing 1-(6-methylpyridin-3-yl)-2-[(4-(methylsulphonyl)phenyl)-
5 ethanone of the formula



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starting from 2-methyl-5-ethylpyridine is described.
1-(6-methylpyridin-3-yl)-2-[(4-(methylsulphonyl)-
10 phenyl]ethanone is an intermediate for preparing COX-2
inhibitors.